



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOSE MACHADO,

Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Respondent.

) Cr. No. 11-0259GT

) Cv. No. 11-2033GT

) **ORDER**

On September 1, 2011, Petitioner, Jose Machado ("Mr. Machado"), filed a Motion to Modify Sentence, presumably pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Mr. Machado requests a two level downward departure based on his status as a deportable alien, which Mr. Machado asserts should have been considered as a mitigating factor at his sentencing. The Court has fully considered this matter, including a review of Mr. Machado's brief filed, the authorities cited therein and the arguments presented. For the reasons stated below, Mr. Machado's Motion to Modify Sentence is **DENIED**.

//

//

1 First, Mr. Machado pled guilty, pursuant to a written plea agreement, to one count of
 2 Attempted Entry After Deportation, in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a). In the written plea
 3 agreement, Mr. Machado explicitly waived his right to appeal and/or collaterally attack his
 4 conviction or sentence. The Ninth Circuit has long acknowledged that the terms of a plea
 5 agreement are enforceable. *See, United States v. Baramdyka*, 95 F.3d 840, 843 (9th Cir. 1996),
 6 *cert. denied*, 117 S.Ct. 1282 (1997). Since Mr. Machado expressly waived his statutory right to
 7 appeal or collaterally attack his sentence in his plea agreement, Mr. Machado is now precluded
 8 from challenging that sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. *See, United States v. Abarca*, 985
 9 F.2d 1012, 1014 (9th Cir. 1993) (holding that a knowing and voluntary waiver of a statutory right
 10 is enforceable).

11 Moreover, even if Mr. Machado had not expressly waived his right to appeal or collaterally
 12 attack his sentence, his petition would still fail. In essence, Mr. Machado argues that because of
 13 his status as a deportable alien, he is “ineligible[] for pre-release custody and minimum security
 14 confinement.” Mr. Machado argues that the Court should grant him a two level downward
 15 departure because of his status. However, Mr. Machado’s argument that the Court should depart
 16 downward because he is a deportable alien is precluded by statute and current Ninth Circuit case
 17 law. By statute, the Court may depart downward only if there are “aggravating or mitigating
 18 circumstances . . . not adequately taken into consideration by the Sentencing Commission.” 18
 19 U.S.C. § 3553(b). Specifically, the Ninth Circuit has held that the threat of deportation is not a
 20 factor that the district court may consider for sentencing purposes. *United States v. Alvarez-*
 21 *Cardenas*, 902 F.2d 734, 737 (9th Cir. 1990).¹ Accordingly,

22 //

23 //

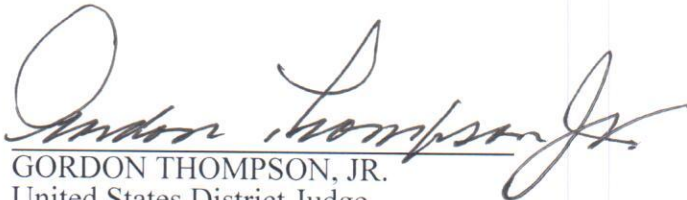
24 //

25
 26 ¹ The Ninth Circuit decided, in an unpublished opinion, that the defendant, like Limon, was not
 27 entitled to a six month reduction in his sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b) because as a
 28 deportable alien he is not eligible to spend the last six months of his sentence in a half way
 house pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3624(c). *See United States v. Zepeda-Valles*, 87 F.3d 1325 (9th
 Cir. 1996).

1 **IT IS ORDERED** that Mr. Machado's Motion to Modify Sentence is **DENIED**.

2 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

3
4
5 11-2-12
6 date


GORDON THOMPSON, JR.
United States District Judge

7 cc: AUSA Bruce Castetter

Petitioner